IN UNITY

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The Voice of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches

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IN UNITY

The Voice of The Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches.
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The publication of "In Unity Magazine" is the voice of our Fellowship. Publication of the magazine is part of each individual in all congregations that will bring "UNITY" to our Fellowship. The magazine is carrying religious articles, outstanding sermons given by your ministers, news of your community which would interest all congregations and news of your church activities.

There is a monthly theme for the magazine which we will follow with the majority of articles. The theme for April is "Easter and Resurrection of Life." The theme for May is "Female Homosexuality and the Church." The May issue will also feature "Mother's Day" articles, and all copy for this issue must be received by April 10th.

Reverend Perry knows that you will want to participate in this publication by taking an active part in submitting news from your congregation and help spread the word of God, and to unite our brothers and sisters. We are growing fast, this is true, but there are still so many lost souls who need our help and understanding that we must use this medium to reach them. As each of you get involved with this publication you will find your reward to be very gratifying. By contributing of your time and talent, you can be assured you are greatly appreciated by all who read your words. You will be helping people all over the world to overcome their problems and be able to live a better life. We all need you, so get involved immediately.

Love and Gods Speed
Don Hughes, Editor - In Unity

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THE EDITOR SPEAKS

Welcome to your March In Unity. Our theme this month is Ecology. Suddenly ecology is very popular. Almost every magazine and newspaper has something about the subject, The dictionary defines Ecology as a branch of science concerned with the inter relation ship of organims and their environments; the completeness or pattern of relations between organisms and their environments. The dictionary further defines organisms as a complex structure of interdependent and subordinate elements whose relations and properties are largely determined by their function in the whole. If human beings are organisms; -

Theological ecology might be the study of mans inter relationship to man and to his spiritual environment. Certanly no area of pollution is more detrimental to man and the worlds future than his own spiritual pollution. The Universal Fellowship urges each man and woman in America to examine their relationship to God and to each other. Perhaps if we eliminate our spiritual pollution by re examining the teachings of Jesus Christ and pattering our existence more closely after His life, we will automatically solve all our other "polution" problems and the word Ecology will slip back into the dictionary un-needed and un-used.

Don Hughes - Editor

IN UNITY

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Letters to the Editor

Dear Don:

In Unity arrived today...Great! This is a publication that we can show with pride. Keep up the good work.

Our new address is 2175 N.W. 26th St. Miami, Florida 33142. Our service time is 11:30 AM Sundays. Our average attencance is around 95.

I have joined the Greater Miami Ministeral Association. I understand that I am the first MCC pastor to belong to a city association. We have good lines of communication with the Lutheran Church in America and I am a member, by invitation, of the Lutheran Pastors Cabinet. We are also seeking membership in the Fellowship of Churches in South Florida.

We had good response when Reverend Perry was with us; he did one television show and a two hour talk show on radio. They are still talking about it.

I am lecturing at Miami Dade Junior College, the largest Junior College in the U.S. These lectures are under the sponsorship of the Psychology Department.

We have opened our counseling center, we have five state certified counselors working not only with our people but with cases refered to us by local agencies.

Again, keep up the good work, we can point with pride to our printed voice.

Yours in Him,
Paul Bradley Wilson

Fellow Christians:

The Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches is very pleased to present the 2nd issue of Volume 2 of In Unity. We hope our renewed and concentrated efforts to be of service in the areas of religion and the homosexual, sexuality and the hososexual, and church commentary, will provide a constant source of information and education, as well as a source of good reading.

Our new editor, Mr. Hughes has contacted all of our missions and churches to solicit writers from each area so that In Unity will become truly The Voice of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches.

We invite you to subscribe now, for the convenience of regular delivery to your home. A subscription blank can be found on page #3 for your convenience. Please include your check or money order for $5.00 for the next twelve issues.

Yours In Christ, Bo Siewert,
Editor In Chief.

The MCC crosses, MCC hymnals (minimum orders of 10); membership cards, baptismal certificates and marriage certificates are avaliable through In Unity Publications.

COMING NEXT MONTH

Easter and The Resurrection of Life will be the theme of the March issue of In Unity. This subject should be of great interest for all peoples, all over the world.

The Conservation of Person - A Study in Ecology.

In this ecologically oriented age of ours we have heard much about the ecology of the atmosphere and the ecology of our natural resources but I have yet to hear much concern expressed over the ecology of the PERSON - the conservation and wise use of the God given resources of PERSONALITY. These could most readily be divided into three main categories: physical, emotional, spiritual.

Most of us in the homophile community are concerned about our bodies. But how inconsistent our actions often are. I find it difficult to see the logic in spending great amounts of money at the health food stores and then popping pills; of injecting poison into our veins and then marching with poster in hand to demonstrate against the pollution of our air. We often subject our bodies to one sexual escapade after another with no concern for the health of our bodies, finding no real satisfaction but never once stopping to take that long hard look at ourselves that could start us on the path of conserving our great physical resources.

How important it is too that we conserve our emotional resources. How much of our emotional energy is devoted to negatives, to majoring in minors, to those actions and thoughts which are not emotionally economical.

From a psychological point of view the surgeon is described as a sadist, but he has channeled his feelings into emotionally satisfying and constructive actions. The race car driver has a deep fear of death but he "donquers" his fear by driving fast on the track once again he is emotionally satisfied. Each of us makes similar choices every day, some are emotionally satisfying, others emotionally destructive. Take for example the case of "the little white lie"; we find ourselves having to cover-up that first innocent lie with a bigger one ad infinitum thus wasting our most precious emotional energies in a destructive manner. How many of us too waste these energies in hatred and bitterness, destroying ourselves and others through our lack of love.

Most important, yet least often thought of, is the ecology of the Spirit. God has provided great renewal resources for our spiritual lives yet how few take advantage of prayer, worship, and study. How prompt we have been at play, how seldom at prayer. How easy to sleep in on Sunday morning, instead of renewing our spirits in fellowship and worship. When the really rough times come in life we no longer seem to have the spiritual resources to meet them for we have not been concerned with ecology of the soul.

As important as the conservation and ecology of our natural resources is it will be meaningless until we come to a new and more profound sense of the conservation of person.

Jon Bullock

FROM THE PEN OF:
Reverend Perry

It was my privilege as Moderator of the Board of Elders of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches to visit several of our Missions and Churches in the South and Western part of the United States during the late part of January and the first part of February. I would like to give you a little report about what I observed and saw.

First, I would like to say that I found real Unity among our people. I feel the spirit of Metropolitan Community Church, as it spreads across America, and I know that our people will have Unity and Harmony in their midst. I saw Unity of the Faith, Unity of the Spirit, and Unity in the Community. I saw people that didn't have a church a year ago all at once smile, because they knew that the fellowship had come their way.

The first stop on my trip was January 26th, and starting then I spent four days in Miami, Florida visiting our church there. What a time I had. I met Reverend Brad Wilson, the pastor of our church there, and stayed in the home of Mr. Bob Longstrath, one of our Board Members. The church in Miami really fills the need in that community. Florida is not the most liberal area in the world and there is oppression but, our church moves on. During a Satruday night meeting while I was there we had an attendance of over 109 persons which I can say, "Amen" and praise the Lord for it. In that service, I felt that same spirit that we feel all across America in all of our churches.

I want you to pray for Reverend Wison and his work as they start new Missions in Tampa, Tallahassee, and Ft. Lauderdale. We are going to see great things happening from the great State of Florida.

After my few days visit with the Miami church, I went to visit home, that being Winter Haven, Florida. I visited with relatives for a few days before I went on to our next Mission in Dallas, Texas.

I flew into Dallas on February 3rd, and was picked up at the airport by Richard Vincent and his lover, Victor. Richard is the Chairman of the Board of Overseers for the Dallas Mission. Later that night we went to the First Unitarian Church of Dallas where our Mission holds its services. There we met Reverend Ruth Willis who is the Worship Co-ordinator for our group there. It was really heart-warming to see 73 people arrive for the service. And have a service we did. The Lord annointed and blessed and again I felt the spirit of Metropolitan Community Church and the spirit of the Lord in our midst.

After our service, the next morning I flew to Denver, Colorado to meet the pastor of our New Mission there. The Denver Mission is the formation out of another older church group, Church of the Holy

Sepulcher, which voted to align itself with our fellowship. I met Reverend Allan Haberkorn, the pastor there and that night had a meeting at the United Methodist Church with 54 individuals present from the Denver area who wanted to talk about MCC in our community and what we could do. There was a warm feeling, we finished the service there and we went to the home of Mr. Martin Cox, another individual who is a part of the Denver Church, where we had a meeting with other interested parties and talked about the formation of a church and mission and having the Denver Mission go out of the Mission stage into a church. I think that the meeting was beneficial for all concerned and a time of fellowship was had by everyone who attended that meeting.

The next morning I woke up and left with Mr. Russell Quest who had joined me in Dallas, Texas for our trip to Phoenix, Arizona. When we arrived in Phoenix, we were met at the airport by several members from Los Angeles and a member of the Board of Directors, Mr. Jack Caldwell of the Phoenix Church. We immediately went to the motel where we were to stay, changed clothes and waited until another group arrived from the Los Angeles Church, Willie Smith, our song director from Los Angeles with two other young men as well as my lover, Steve Jordan. We went to the Phoenix Church that night, again a great time of fellowship was witnessed by all. We had 80 in attendance and the Lord moved and annointed in a most wonderful way. We are going to see great things happen in Phoenix as that church progresses and grows.

Since I have arrived home, I have talked with ministers in other areas. Two weeks ago, I was priviledged to go to Washington, D.C. to visit the Community Church of Washington. This is not affiliated with the Universal Fellowship, but is having a business meeting this month to decide perhaps if they should request affiliation with us. I think that it would be a great step forward and I think that the Lord would annoint and bless us real good. I was very impressed with the pastor of the group there.

Great things are happening all across the United States, I received a phone call from Reverend Howard Wells, our Pastor in San Francisco. and they are running a little over the 300 mark, we are really proud of that and we want to wish them in this issue, a Happy First Anniversary.

Of course, in Los Angeles, we are excited because great things are happening, we are moving into our New Church Building and Dedication Day will be March 7, 1971. When you are in Los Angeles, we invite you to attend our Worship Services and come to see us. This last month we received a communique from our church group in Honolulu, Hawaii and they are requesting that they be Chartered. We are taking action on that in our next Elders Meeting.

So, as I stated earlier in my report, you can see great things are happening all across America, the Spirit of the Lord and the Spirit of the Church is prevalent and evident. As Moderator of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Com-

munity Churches, I just want to say, let's all hold onto God's hand and keep up the good work. Until next month,
Yours in Christ,
Reverend Troy D. Perry

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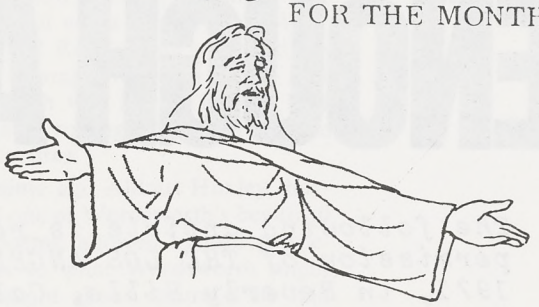
. . . the wise man looks
into space
and does not regard the small
too little,
nor the great as
too big;
for he knows that there is no
limit
to dimensions.
—Lao tse

Thought FOR THE MONTH



And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: . . . nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.

Matt. 24:6-7

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ECOLOGY: ENOUGH ALREADY!

By Myron Roberts

The following article is reprinted with the express permission of THE LOS ANGELES MAGAZINE, of January 1971, in Beverly Hills, California.

What the Puritans did for sex, and the Inquisition did for religion, the Ecology Freaks are doing for conservation. You take any good idea and push it far enough to satisfy the fanatics, and you will succeed in making your cause ridiculous. In the end the fanaticism of one side breeds an equal and opposite fanaticism on the other. Thus it is not hard to predict that if all the crusaders who are now insisting that DDT be banned, that population growth be reduced to zero, that natural resources and wilderness areas be left *absolutely* untouched, have their way – sensible people will wind up spraying deadly chemicals into the air, burning forests and making babies just to puncture the self-righteousness of the ecology cult.

At the very moment that the sale of DDT to the public has been banned in California, the government of India releases a report that as the result of the use of DDT, the number of Indians ravaged by malaria has been reduced from 100 million to less than one million. Would any Eco-Freak who can remember what it was like to try to sleep or even walk outdoors on a warm summer night before World War II (and DDT) care to step forward and say a few words on behalf of mosquitos?

In essence much of the ecological nonsense being bandied about these days reminds me of an argument which ensued when, as a young editor of a small weekly newspaper in Manhattan Beach, I wrote a piece in favor of building parking lots alongside the beach as a convenience to would-be summer visitors.

Almost to a man the people who owned beachfront houses landed on me with both feet. In those days the ecology bit wasn't fashionable, but selfishness has always had its advocates and these people argued with simple honesty that building parking lots would mean that on warm summer days they would have to share their lovely beaches with those dreadful people "from the center of Los Angeles." When I pointed out that the beaches, after all, were public property and were cleaned and maintained by taxes paid by the public, they countered with the awful spectre of endless miles of hot dog stands and "another Coney Island." Naturally they won, so that to this day most of the people of Southern California cannot use beaches that they own because the people who happen to occupy houses

abutting the beach won't let the county build adequate parking.

This, of course, parallels the argument of the Sierra Club against the proposed development of the Mineral King mountain area into a Disneyland for snow buffs. There are tens of thousands of square miles of remote, inaccessible mountain areas in Southern California where mountaineer types can wander for days without the offensive sight of a fellow human being (unless or until one gets trapped by an unexpected turn in the weather, in which case the urban villains have to pay for a helicopter to fly in and rescue our nature lovers). But when it is proposed that a tiny fraction of this wilderness be developed into a resort area which millions of people would use and enjoy due to its accessibility by automobile, the stouthearted Sierra Club spokesmen argue that no one should be permitted to penetrate *their* mountains who isn't willing to put a pack on his back and hike in.

Much of the talk about despoiling natural resources and beauty spots is equally short-sighted and/or hysterical. Smog, of course, is a disaster, but other cities (London, Pittsburgh) have attacked smog without bringing civilization or even population growth to a grinding halt and sooner or later Los Angeles will too. And we will do it not by the expedient of cutting down on the number of people who breathe the air or drive cars or work in factories, but by the application of scientific technology and political maturity. As for the general state of the ecology of Southern California, I can testify from personal memory that most of the landscape of this area today is far superior to what it was three decades ago. I can remember when the better part of the beaches of Southern California were quarantined most of the time – at a time when our population was one-fourth of what it is now. One recalls such garden spots as "tin can beach"—once a refuse dump extending from Long Beach to Newport, now a beautiful, clean beach used by hundreds of thousands of people every summer. I can recall when what is now King Harbor was a seaside slum. When Marina Del Rey was an ugly and unhealthy swamp. When what is now Zuma Beach was full of broken beer bottles and rotting food and burned out camp fires.

Sometime ago Aldous Huxley, having read one of Wordsworth's beautiful nature poems, allowed himself to speculate as to what Wordsworth might have thought about nature if he had lived, not in the tamed and gentle English countryside, but in the tropics, where almost anything you touch bites or stings or gives you some loathsome disease. So, too, I would suggest that those who profess horror at the despoilation of the natural world from the sanctity of a green and pleasant university campus, might think otherwise after a modest encounter with a world not made rich and safe and comfortable by human ingenuity.

So the pelicans are dying off. Is that an excuse for dismantling civilization? We may just have to get along without pelicans. There are no snakes in Ireland. Or wolves in England. So if the English miss wolves they can read about them in Gothic novels and if the Irish yearn to see snakes they can come to western America. Yes, Virginia, there is a balance in nature, and yes, we should respect the rights of species other than our own. But the "thou shall not disturb the balance of nature" argument pushed to its current extreme is simply another form of the "noble savage" nonsense that swept the fashionable salons of French intellectuals two centuries ago. The idea, of course, was that man in his natural, savage state was good – and that civilization corrupted him. Therefore the ladies of the court of Louis XIV in search of a chic, new image would periodically dress up like milkmaids and pretend to be peasants just as rich

young kids from Brentwood now dress up in dirty jeans and hitch-hike rather than use the new sports car their parents have bought for them – all in the name of ecology.

If men had regarded the Balance of Nature as inviolate, there would be no Paris, no London, no Rome, no music, no art, no literature. Not long ago a group of "Population Bomb" types got together for an international convention with the express purpose of issuing a solemn warning to the world of the dangers posed by too much civilization resulting in unrestricted growth of the human species at the expense of the "lower animals." And where did they choose to hold their meetings? Not in some remote mountain or forest wilderness, still less in some semi-primitive rural backwater, but in that most urban and civilized of cities, Rome. Why? Because given a chance to attend a convention at somebody else's expense, who would not rather go to Rome than to a wildlife preserve? Rome is full of the things civilized men enjoy – elegant women, delicious food, art, a complex civilization, a rich history and above all a teeming and various population. So what if there are traffic jams? The traffic is there because it's where people want to live. You won't encounter much traffic or a smog problem in Hellhole County, Nevada or the Okeefenokee swamp.

Ecology is the major political and intellectual shuck of our time. Proof of this lies in a simple fact – nobody's against it.

Dick Nixon disapproves of pollution and so does Ronald Reagan. And so does the S.D.S. Standard Oil and the Edison Co. run full page ads attacking pollution and *Ramparts* and the underground press regard it as *prima-facie* evidence of the need for overthrowing the system. For the Right it ranks alongside patriotism and for the New Left it is as sacred a cause as drugs. Whichever side finally goes ahead and bombs the other out of existence will probably do so in the name of preserving the purity of the environment, or population control, or some other ecologically respectable rationalization.

The primary reason everybody has leapt aboard the ecology bandwagon is that we are bankrupt of sensible ideas about the real and obvious problems of man – which is man. We have arrived at a point where the old, facile slogans and notions about race relations, war, poverty and human relationships have lost credibility. Along comes ecology which is popular because it's new and big and easily grasped and it satisfies some need Americans seem to have to be perpetually engaged in a crusade. It appeals to the puritans among us because it is against dissolute pleasures enjoyed for their own sake and it appeals to profligates because it reaffirms their view that men aren't any better than animals. It appeals to conservatives because it is tied to the land and hence ultimately to property values, and to radicals because it is anti-industrial and hence anti-capitalist. Finally it appeals to CBS and NBC because it permits them to go through the motions of expressing moral outrage and editorial indignation without saying anything that is really likely to discourage advertisers or give the F.C.C. cause for reviewing some station's license.

There are, of course, a few hardy souls who give more than lip service to the movement, and truly live in a primeval, untouched state of oneness with nature. What kind of people these are was indicated for me by a recent story in the *Times* about a remote area of Death Valley inhabited by a half-dozen old men who managed to pass the long, hot days by arming themselves to the teeth and hunting each other down.

That, my friends, is ecology with a vengeance. ■

SOUL POLLUTION

There's a lot of talk flying around about pollution – air pollution, water pollution, soil pollution, etc. Whether you're hip or straight, "ecology" seems to be what's happening in the news, and for obvious reasons. Nobody seems to dig pollution, no matter what side of the "credibility gap" they're on.

It's interesting to see what God's ecological solution is. He originally created man to have dominion over nature. That doesn't mean to exploit it or to rape it like some people think. "Dominion" means God wanted man to guard over and protect it . . . to take care of it.

But when man sold out to Day-Star (Satan), and chose his life-style over God's, he automatically lost his dominion. He forfeited this God-given dominion to a new master – Satan. And that's why he has been a failure at trying to keep nature clean and beautiful.

Now God's "ecology" is unique. Man has raped the earth and polluted it because he has lost his dominion. This is the reason for the very worst kind of pollution – soul pollution. We've all got it. It's caused by what we call sin – ego-tripping.

God knows that pollution in nature won't be solved until man gets his dominion back. Therefore, the first thing to take care of is the soul pollution problem. That's step number one. God wants us to have dominion, and Jesus makes it possible for us to have it once again.

When we accept Jesus as liberator from sin (soul pollution), our dominion is individually and personally restored to us. He purchased the right for us to get back when He died on the Cross. Isn't that heavy? That's part of the inheritance we get as a free gift when we become a Christian.

WAYOUT

POPULATION ECOLOGY

15 YEARS AGO W. DORR LEGG WROTE IN ONE MAGAZINE - - HOMOSEXUALITY:

A BRAKE ON OVERPOPULATION

Brakes of every sort must be applied to the world's speeding population increase of disaster is to be avoided. Social scientists are today beginning to recognize that homosexuality is one of the most effective fools available for controlling excessive birth-rates. The antiquated notion that homosexuality was somehow harmful to society is rapidly giving way to saner, more scientific attitudes. In fact, some philosophers now feel that it is indispensable for the well-being of a truly healthy social structure.

Few problems facing civilization today are more explosively dangerous than overpopulation. 'The problem of population is the problem of our age,' writes Julian Huxley. The relentless increase in total world population goes on at an ever-increasing tempo, more and more straining the resources of our planet.

Scientists have been pointing out with increasing alarm and urgency the simple fact that known food and mineral resources of the world are far from inexhaustible. This has already been shown with tragic results in those countries where insufficient food supplies and faulty diet have opened the way for disease and destructive social unrest to take their toll.

Communism itself generally has little appeal in countries having normal population densities and adequate food supply. Wars, too are often rooted in population problems. It is only necessary to cite the overcrowding which drove Japan into World War II to illustrate this well-known fact.

Can civilization devise no more sensible solution for this problem than the elimination of millions through war? Must millions continually be destroyed to make room for still more millions?

The world's natural resources are melting away before the mad onrush of uncontrolled population growth. This has long been apparent in the older crowded nations. Like China. To feed the hungry slopes have been stripped of their forest covering. Marginal lands have been stripped of their forest covering. Marginal lands have been brought into cultivation. Rains have eroded the hillsides, silting up rivers. In dry seasons there have been duststorms. The result: as population keeps increasing the tillable land is decreasing.

Elsewhere mines have been ruthlessly exploited, oil fields pumped far out at sea in the desperate rush to supply multiplying demands.

In India three hundred and eighty million people must attempt to subsist on a daily average calory intake of less than 1600. Millions of them are herded together into the disease-ridden slums of the great cities. Yet, like compound interest, the flood of new births goes on at an ever-accelerated rate.

Even more crowded is Indonesia, with a population density almost twice that of England's, in itself grossly congested. Indonesians already subsist on barely 2000 cal-

ories per day. No improvement is in sight, while in nearby Thailand the danger point is fast approaching.

In Europe, by heavy industrialization and world trade, some countries have managed to obscure their population imbalances - Holland, England, even Greece. The fact remains that it is those countries, like Italy, where population density presses the resources most critically that have long harbored social problems and serious unrest.

It is no longer possible to close one's eyes to the vast dimensions of the world-wide population issue and its dangerous potentials, as millions struggle daily for adequate food and live under conditions more fit for animals than humans.

Nor is it any longer possible to avoid the serious moral questions involved. It is here that homosexuality affords such valuable relief, so welcome an answer, for centuries of effort at control via the heterosexual segments of society have been ineffective. This can hardly be denied in the face of such statistics as those coming from the 1954 Rome 'Conference on World Populations,' held under the auspices of the United Nations.

It would seem that some new approach is needed if any substantial progress is to be made, or at least the fullest utilization of every available resource and weapon. Such a resource of tremendous potentiality is homosexuality. Society may well find itself wielding this weapon with increasing appreciation and effecitveness as its value becomes better understood.

The important point to recognize in consideration of the overpopulation question is that the homosexual family unit does not produce children. Careless thinkers have sometimes cited this as detrimental to society, in some unexplained way equating social usefulness with reproductive processes.

Now that indiscriminate reproduction is seen to be the root of the entire question of world population problems, the family unit which does not produce offspring is coming to occupy an altered place in sociological thinking.

The invaluable control-function of homosexuality in helping reduce the appalling birthrate increase of the past few decades is seen to merit the closest study. As social scientists and governmental agencies in various countries realistically appraise the contribution homosexuality can make toward a solution for 'the problem of the age,' fresh social patterns will emerge and legal structures be renovated.

Modern society has the choice before it of using avenues already available for solving its pressing problems, or of floundering on in the morass of methods that have proved ineffectual. Homosexuality offers a hand on the population problem that civilization can ill-afford to reject.

ONE Magazine, April-May 1956

But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.

Matt. 24:36

NEWS OF OUR CHURCHES

I'm sure we all feel excited and proud over the phenomenal growth of our churches and missions. If "IN UNITY" is to be your "Voice" SOME OF YOU ARE NOT talking. We have received news from only three of our churches and missions this month. Get INVOLVED. You may say something that will help many others. Let's show our Unity and strength to the world.

SAN FRANCISCO

Last month we stated that San Francisco was growing fast and that their average weekly attendance was 200. To prove the speed at which they are growing, this month their attendance is 250 a week. What a crowded social calendar they have. The Rollar Skating Party on Feb. 7th was a huge success. Our friends in Oakland told us that everyone had a flying good time. (did you ever try to skate in high heels?)

On Feb. 5th the Chicken Coupers (MCC San Francisco youth group) sponsored a youth dance, for young and not so young. A live band was featured and - huge success again. God Bless all our Youth Groups.

MCC East Bay has services on Sunday evenings at 7:00 PM and Bible study on Monday evenings at Grandma's House. Incidentally, I believe we should all support our places of business that cooperate and work for the church. Grandma's House is one of them.

MCC open bowling is held on Mondays. That's a healthy activity for all of us. Valentines Dance on Feb. 13th and a Theatre Party coming up on March 11th.

Members of our community in San Francisco and surrounding area need never feel lonely, they can always meet with friends at the many MCC activities and know that they are a member of a big wonderful family.

CHICAGO

Good Shepherd Parish of Metropolitan Community Church services are held each Sunday evening at 7:00 PM in the Broadway Methodist Church, located at 3342 North Broadway. Always a social hour after services with - everyone invited.

All during February the pages of cook books were flying in preparation for the pot luck which was held on Feb. 20th. The preparation was worth it, we hear the food was delicious and the entire event was MCCish (that means filled with the warm spirit of brotherly love.)

The old fashioned hymn sing in February was so popular there will be another one in March. The MCC Chicago News Letter always ends with; "Bring a friend to church with you" - and we'll say Amen to that.

DALLAS

The highlight for the month of February, not only for Metropolitan Community Church of Dallas; but for all Dallas itself was the appearance of our own Reverend Troy D. Perry. Feb 3rd Rev. Perry

spoke at the Normandy Chapel of The First Unitarian Church and conducted Memorial Services for Myra Rae DeVerse, the co-founder, along with her dear friend, Rob Willis, of MCC Dallas. It was a beautiful evening that Dallas will never forget, and the attendance and spirit was a great tribute to Myra.

Dallas bowls and Dallas roller skates, but most important they meet new faces, and make new friends as they bring the message of God to our community in Dallas, Texas.

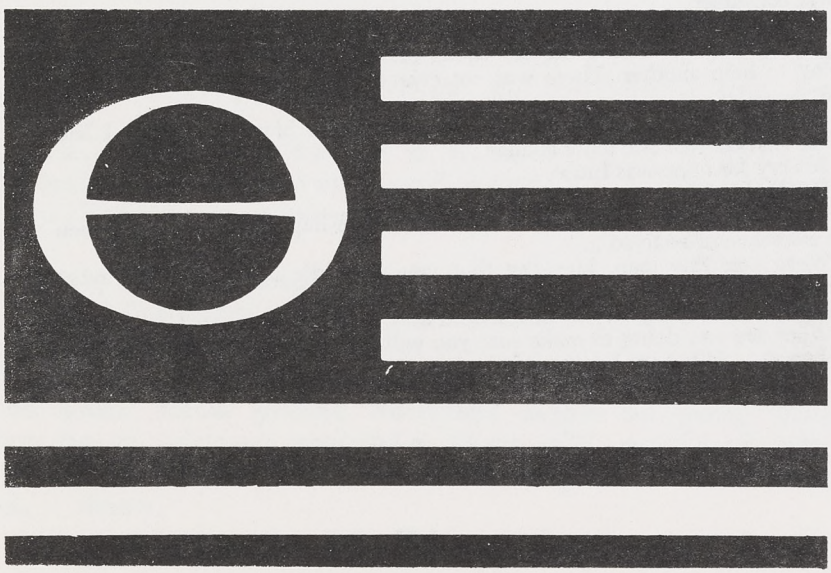
"If I cannot do great things, I can do small things in a great way."

HAWAII

After reading two of the News Letters from our Hawaii Mission, called by the way Ka Leo Ola O Hawaii or Word of Life of Hawaii; I can see they're doing a fine job. During the month of January attendance was 35 on the average. Keep up the good work, for as you know, as your spirit grows so does your attendance.

On December 25, 1970 Deacon Ronald L. Hanson was certified by the Mother Church in Los Angeles. A late congratulations to Reverend Hanson from In Unity.

The staff of In Unity wants to write more about your Mission, we just can't; simply because we don't know that much about your church or any of your regular functions. So, let the spirit move you to pen and paper and write In Unity about your Mission!



FROM THE HEART

TIME TO MAKE LIFE COUNT!

The Prosperos

He was sick. Very sick.

He was so sick, nobody, not even the expensive specialist, believed he would live more than a few days. At most, maybe he would last out the week.

But while he was almost a dead man in the physical sense, he remained very much alive mentally.

So lying in that hospital bed, aware that he had little time left to live, he suffered the inconceivable tortures of those who are fearful of death.

"Why me!" his voice cried within him. "I haven't really had the chance to live yet. I'm not even forty!"

Like so many before who had also asked, "Why me?"—there was no answer.

Only the inevitability of death . . .

So did he think and wait.

And while he waited, he cursed his years of time wasted in meaningless activities and trivia.

"What have I said or done," he taunted himself, "to make one thing better than it was before?"

"After a few months, how will anybody know I existed at all?"

"Where is my mark, my scratch on the earth that will survive my bones?"

A minister tried to comfort him, but the words remained empty sounds.

There was no answer. There could be none, for his life had been a series of days consumed.

Nothing more.

No monument existed for his deeds or his kindness or his love or his striving to help another. There was not even a good intention that he could recall.

Resigned then to death, he could only repeat to himself, "If only I had another chance! Just one more chance . . ."

His cry for hope was futile.

He died.

One must wonder, however, what would have happened had there been some miracle and he lived . . .

Were you this man, knowing that you must die and you lived, what would you have done?

But, you are dying, day by day, as you live.

What are you doing to make sure you will not be forgotten a few months after burial . . . What am I doing . . .

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH SPLICING LIVES
TOGETHER THROUGHOUT THE NATION AND THE WORLD

THE HOMOSEXUAL'S PRAYER

Thank you God, that I am a homosexual.

Thank you for a little more sensitivity, that I might have a greater appreciation of the arts, music, painting, sculpture, dance.

Thank you for a little more emotion that I might have a greater awareness of the world and the people around me - and feel a deeper love for my brothers and sisters.

I thank you, God, for being a member of a minority, because it makes my brothers and sisters a true family; bound together in a common cause.

I thank you for leading me to Metropolitan Community Church, that I might walk tall and proud with you.

And most of all, my deepest thanks, oh Lord, for choosing us to lead this great revival back to you, God. May our lives be a living example that all mankind may turn to the path of peace and love, through Jesus Christ to you, God. Amen.

-by Deacon T. Purcell

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